

(1) ASSISTANCE AND COORDINATION.—In carrying out the program of methane hydrate research and development authorized by this subsection the Secretary of Energy may award grants or contracts to, or enter into cooperative agreements with, institutions of higher education and industrial enterprises to—

(A) conduct basic and applied research to identify, explore, assess, and develop methane hydrate as a source of energy;

(B) assist in developing technologies required for efficient and environmentally sound development of methane hydrate resources;

(C) undertake research programs to provide safe means of transport and storage of methane produced from gas methane hydrates;

(D) promote education and training in methane hydrate resource research and resource development;

(E) conduct basic and applied research to assess and mitigate the environmental impacts of hydrate degassing (including both natural degassing and degassing associated with commercial development);

(F) develop technologies to reduce the risks of drilling through methane hydrates; and

(G) conduct exploratory drilling in support of the activities authorized by this paragraph.

(2) COMPETITIVE MERIT-BASED REVIEW.—Funds made available under paragraph (1) shall be made available based on a competitive merit-based process.

(3) CONSULTATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Energy shall establish and advisory panel consisting of experts from industry, institutions of higher education, and Federal agencies to—

(i) advise the Secretary of Energy on potential applications of methane hydrate; and
(ii) assist in developing recommendations and priorities for the methane hydrate research and development program carried out under subsection (a)(1); and

(iii) not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, and at such later dates as the panel considers advisable, submit to Congress a report on the anticipated impact on global climate change from—

(I) methane hydrate formation;

(II) methane hydrate degassing (including natural degassing and degassing associated with commercial development); and

(III) the consumption of natural gas produced from methane hydrates.

(B) MEMBERSHIP.—Not more than twenty-five percent of the individuals serving on the advisory panel shall be Federal employees.

(C) LIMITATIONS.—

(1) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—Not more than 5 percent of the amount made available to carry out this section for a fiscal year may be used by the Secretary of Energy for expenses associated with the administration of the program carried out under subsection (a)(1).

(2) CONSTRUCTION COSTS.—None of the funds made available to carry out this section may be used for the construction of a new building or the acquisition, expansion, remodeling, or alteration of an existing building (including site grading and improvement and architect fees).

(d) Responsibilities of the Secretary of Energy.—In carrying out subsection (b)(1), the Secretary of Energy, shall—

(1) facilitate and develop partnerships among government, industry, and institutions of higher education to research, identify, assess, and explore methane hydrate resources;

(2) undertake programs to develop basic information necessary for promoting long-term interest in methane hydrate resources as an energy source;

(3) ensure that the data and information developed through the program are accessible and widely disseminated as needed and appropriate;

(4) promote cooperation among agencies that are developing technologies that may hold promise for methane hydrate resource development; and

(5) report annually to Congress on accomplishments under this section.

SEC. 4. AMENDMENTS TO THE MINING AND MINERALS POLICY ACT OF 1970.

Section 201 of the Mining and Minerals Policy Act of 1970 (30 U.S.C. 1901) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (6)—

(A) in subparagraph (F), by striking “and” at the end;

(B) by redesignating subparagraph (G) as subparagraph (H); and

(C) by inserting after subparagraph (F) the following:

“(G) for purposes of this section and sections 202 through 205 only, methane hydrate; and”.

(2) by redesignating paragraph (7) as paragraph (8); and

(3) by inserting after paragraph 6 the following:

“(7) The term “methane hydrate” means—

“(A) a methane clathrate that is in the form of a methane-water ice-like crystalline material and is stable and occurs naturally in deep-ocean and permafrost areas; and

“(B) other natural gas hydrates found in association with deep-ocean and permafrost deposits of methane hydrate.”;

SEC. 5. REPORTS AND STUDIES.

The Secretary of Energy shall simultaneously provide to the Committee on Science and the Committee on Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate copies of any report or study that the Department of Energy pursuant to this Act.

SEC. 6. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Energy to carry out this Act—

(1) \$5,000,000 for fiscal year 2000;

(2) \$7,500,000 for fiscal year 2001;

(3) \$11,000,000 for fiscal year 2002;

(4) \$12,000,000 for fiscal year 2003;

(5) \$12,000,000 for fiscal year 2004; and

(6) thereafter such sums as are necessary.

Amounts authorized under this section shall remain available until expended.

Amend the title to read as follows: “An act to promote the research, identification, assessment, exploration, and development of methane hydrate resources, and for other purposes.”.

The amendment (No. 2806) was agreed to.

The bill (H.R. 1753, as amended, was passed.

SENATOR COLLINS FROM MAINE

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I also want to thank the Senator from Maine who is on the floor and waiting to assist with the closing of the Senate for the year.

The hour is late on Friday night, but she has agreed to be here. And she also does a magnificent job presiding in the

Chair. I thank her for being here and being prepared to help us with the closing actions that are necessary in order for the Senate to complete this session of the Congress.

LEWIS AND CLARK NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL LAND

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Energy Committee be discharged from consideration of H.R. 2737, and the Senate then proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2737) to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to convey to the State of Illinois certain federal land associated with the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read three times, passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 2737) was read the third time, and passed.

JACKSON MULTI-AGENCY CAMPUS ACT OF 1999

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 401, S. 1374.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1374) to authorize the development and maintenance of multi-agency campus project in the town of Jackson, WY.

There being objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill which had been reported from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Jackson Multi-Agency Campus Act of 1999”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(1) the management of public land and natural resources and the service of the public in the area of Jackson, Wyoming, are responsibilities shared by—

(A) the Department of Agriculture;

(B) the Forest Service;

(C) the Department of the Interior, including—

(i) the National Park Service; and

(ii) the United States Fish and Wildlife Service;

(D) the Game and Fish Commission of the State of Wyoming;